



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Senate Bill 207	Assembly Amendment 2
<i>Memo published:</i> March 12, 2004 <i>Contact:</i> Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney (267-9485)	

Under *current law*, certain persons are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect and are required to make a report if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen in the course of their professional duties has been abused or neglected or if they have reason to believe that a child seen in the course of their professional duties has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur. Mandatory reporters include most health care providers, social workers, teachers, and child care workers.

Under the bill, as amended by the Senate, a member of the clergy must report if he or she has reasonable cause, based on observations made or information that he or she receives, to suspect that another member of the clergy has sexually abused a child or has threatened a child with sexual abuse and sexual abuse of the child will likely occur.

A clergy member is not required to report information regarding suspected sexual abuse that is obtained solely through confidential communications made to the clergy member privately or in a confessional setting if he or she is authorized to hear or accustomed to hearing such communications and, under the disciplines, tenets, or traditions of his or her religion, has a duty or is expected to keep those communications secret.

Assembly Amendment 2 requires a member of the clergy to report if he or she has reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by the member of the clergy in the course of his or her professional duties has been sexually abused, or threatened with sexual abuse, and sexual abuse of the child will likely occur. The exception for information obtained solely through confidential communications applies to this reporting requirement as well.

Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representatives Krusick and Gard. The Assembly adopted the amendment on a voice vote and concurred in the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 99; Noes, 0, on March 11, 2004.

AS:ksm:wu